

Message Text

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ORIGIN USIA-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING VOA RUSSIAN

REF: MOSCOW 1655, STATE 21411

1. VOA MONITORS AS WELL AS BBC AND DEUTSCHE WELLE OFFICIALS
AGAIN QUERIED ON JAMMING FEBRUARY 5 IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL. ALL
CONCERNED SAY THERE HAS BEEN NO, REPEAT NO, JAMMING OF BBC AND
DW BROADCASTS, DURING BROADCAST OF GULAG PASSAGES OR OTHERWISE.
JAMMING CONTINUES, HOWEVER, AGAINST ALL TRANSMISSIONS OF RADIO
LIBERTY, KIL ISRAEL AND PERHAPS OTHERS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT
JAMMING NOISES DIRECTED AGAINST THESE STATIONS MAY INTERFERE
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WITH RECEPTION OF STATIONS NOT BEING JAMMED, ESPECIALLY IN

AREAS NEAR JAMMING STATIONS. THERE IS NO, REPEAT NO, EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS INTENTIONAL.

2. MOST RECENT COMPUTER FIGURES AVAILABLE ARE FOR PERIOD DECEMBER 1-22; AND JANUARY FIGURES, WHICH WOULD REFLECT ATTENTION PAID TO GULAG ARCHIPELAGO, WILL NOT BE READY FOR SOME TIME. BREAKDOWN OF PROPORTION OF AIR TIME BY SUBJECT MATTER IS:

- A. NEWS - 18.2 PERCENT
- B. MUSIC - 11.2 PERCENT
- C. FEATURES ON US (INCLUDING REPORTING ON US-USSR BILATERAL RELATIONS) - 31.3 PERCENT
- D. SOVIET POLITICAL AFFAIRS (E'G. REVIEW OF US PRESS ON USSR) - 3.1 PERCENT
- E. POLITICAL FEATURES ON OTHER AREAS (INCLUDING SOME US-USSR BILATERAL) - 13.3 PERCENT
- F. PROGRAMMING NOT PICKED UP BY COMPUTER (INCLUDES SOME FEATURES, NEWS AND MUSIC AS WELL AS OPENINGS, CLOSINGS, CONTINUITY) - 22.9 PERCENT.

3. AS NOTED IN REFTTEL, COMPUTER FIGURES SHOULD NOT BE CITED AS ABSOLUTE EVIDENCE OF HOW MUCH NEWS, MUSIC, ETC. IS BROADCAST IN VIEW OF LARGE AMOUNT OF PROGRAMMING NOT PICKED UP BY COMPUTER. WHAT COMPUTER DOES SHOW, HOWEVER, IS THAT RATIO OF NEWS TO MUSIC TO FEATURES REMAINED CONSTANT BEFORE AND AFTER JAMMING. "UNRECORDED" ITEMS ALSO CONSTANT, WITH 22.6 PERCENT IN AUGUST AND 21.4 PERCENT IN LATE NOVEMBER. WHILE VOA BELIEVES IN BROADCASTING MUSIC, WHICH ATTRACTS AUDIENCE AND TELLS THEM SOMETHING ABOUT AMERICA, THERE WAS NO EFFORT TO INCREASE AMOUNT OF MUSIC BROADCAST AFTER JAMMING STOPPED TO MAKE PROGRAMS LESS CONTROVERSIAL.

4. ABOVE FIGURES ONLY COVER VOA RUSSIAN. OTHER FOUR SERVICES BROADCASTING IN LANGUAGES OF USSR PLUS THREE BALTIC LANGUAGES USE LITTLE MUSIC AND IF THESE WERE INCLUDED IN COMPUTER STUDY AMOUNT OF MUSIC WOULD BE REDUCED AND NEWS AND FEATURE PROGRAMMING WOULD BE HIGHER. KISSINGER

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